(c) whether a National Task Force, with representatives from Voluntary groups is likely to be set up for developing a cohesive plan and a programme for meeting this problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) National Herald of 10th March, 1990 published a news item about a limited survey in some schools and colleges of Lucknow. In the absence of a comprehensive survey, it is not possible to assess the exact dimension of the problem. However, the study do indicate the seriousness of the problem, and highlights the need for providing appropriate services to help the drug addicts. A counselling centre for providing guidance and services to drug addicts has been set up through Abhiney Repartory Theatre and Research Institute, a voluntary organisation of Lucknow.

(c) Comprehensive strategy for combating drug abuse has already been evolved. Assistance is being provided to voluntary organisations, for awareness building and for providing service in counselling de-addiction, after-care and rehabilitation. There is no proposal to set up a National Task Force. However, the views of the voluntary organisations based on their actual experiences are obtained on a regular basis through meetings, workshops, seminars etc.

Research work on NEEM

1771. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2203 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th March, 1990 and state:

(a) the names of the institutions where Research on Neem has been conducted in the country indicating the year of start and results obtained alongwith expenditure incurred at each of these instiutions;

(b) whether any evaluation has been done so far and if so, the results thereof and conclusions arrived at by the Evaluation Committees;

(c) whether there is any element of accountability in our R&D laboratories and if so, the details thereof and whether Government are satisfied with the progress made so far; and

(d) whether Government would direct Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. to develop/promote, manufacture and marketing of Neem and other insecticidal products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Sir The major institutions where research on neem is being conducted are

(i) Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, since 1962;
(ii) National Chemical Laboratory, Pune since 1985;
(iii) Regional Research Laboratry, Hyderabad since 1985;
(iv) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore since 1985;
(v) Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry since 1978; and
(vi) Osmania University, Hyderabad since 1986.

The research on neem is being undertaken as an integral part of the research programmes of these institutions and, as such, no separate allocations have been made

specifically for research on neem. The salient features of the results obtained so far in neem research in the country are:

(i) Identification and isolation of biologically active compounds from neem fo their exploitation for control of insects, nematodes and plant diseases;

(ii) Neem's role in insect pest management has been well established. Several effective extracts/fractions and pure products have been screened against a large number of pests; and

(iii) Stable and economical formulations for use under Indian conditions have been developed.

(b) Evaluation of neem products against various agricultural pests is an integral part of neem research and development. The research results are regularly presented and discussed in the workshops and seminars organised by different national agencies.

Neem is now recognised as an important potential alternative to chemical control and ICAR has included research on neem and other botanicals in its priorities for the VIII Plan.

(c) The progress of research in our institutes/projects is being regularly monitored and discussed in their respective workshops.

Significant progress has been made in utilizing neem in pest management programmes. Institutions like NCL, Pune; NRL, Hyderabad; and IARI, New Delhi have also been successful in developing neem formulations However, commercial exploitation has been rather slow.

(d) since the development of the entire process has not been perfected, it would be premature to ask HIL or any other public sector units to take up its manufacture.

Setting up of Analytical Units for Pesticides

1772. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: Whether Thacker Committee (1964) had recommended setting up of 2 Development Analytical Units and 2 Analytical Unit for collecting data on Pesticides and food, feeds, fodder and water and if so, the details of the action taken thereon and the information gathered indicating whether this information is easily available through publications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir. The Thacker Committee had recommended the setting up of two developmental analytical units at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) New Delhi and Central Food Technological Research Institute, (CFTRI), Mysore and two analytical units at Central Food Laboratory, Calcutta and Plant Quarantine Station, Bombay.

As a follow-up action, an analytical unit has been established at IARI, New Delhi. An All India Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residues is being operated at 18 different locations in the country. A residue analysis unit has been established at CFTRI, Mysore. Two analytical units for pesticide monitoring in food, feed and water have been established at Central Food Laboratory, Calcutta and Plant Quarantine Unit in Bombay.